(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are extending financial assistance to young entrepreneurs, in helping setting up poultry units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether financial assistance is being given to States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, in development of poultry industry, including poultry processing; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries are implementing schemes under which financial assistance are provided to Non-Governmental Organizations/Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings/ joint sectors and private sectors for setting up of poultry processing units including egg processing, expansion in the manufacture of poultry products and modernization, development/improvement of marketing, quality control, storage and transport of meat and meat products.

(e) and (f) Although the plan schemes under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries are not state specific, financial assistance have been provided for setting up of two poultry and meat processing units by State Public Sector Undertakings of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is also extending financial assistance for setting up of infrastructural facilities for cold storage, washing, grading and packing of eggs as a part of export promotion activity in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Making agriculture economically viable

1781. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an overall decline in investment for development of agricultural infrastructure more particularly in the irrigation system, throughout the country;

(b) whether this is on account of lack of adequate economic returns from agriculture;

(c) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken to promote agriculture as a commercially viable and economically rewarding activity considering that a healthy agricultural sector is a necessary condition in the face of nation's food scarcity and for self reliance in food; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to encourage foreign investments in agriculture; if so, whether any special safeguards are proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Gross Capital Formation (GCF) which is the measure of investment in agriculture including investment in irrigation has increased from Rs. 13523 crore in the year 1993-94 to Rs. 27038 crore in 2000-2001. Expenditure incurred for development of irrigation infrastructure constitutes the major part of Public Sector GCF in Agriculture. The GCF due to irrigation in Public Sector has increased from Rs. 4426 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 7247 crore in 2000-2001. In the sector consisting of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Gross Value Addition which is the value of output in the sector not of value of inputs used in production, has increased from Rs. 2,41,967 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 4,71,981 crore in 2000-01.

In order to make agriculture economcially viable the Government announced several programmes in the current year budget, such as earmarking of Rs. 2800 crore for augmenting investment in irrigation under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and making additional allocation of Rs. 2500 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to help in the increase of capital formation in agriculture. Further, Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana has been launched to provide a comprehensive risk insurance to encourage farmers in their efforts to increase production.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Drought-proof rice variety

1782. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists have initiated the process on drought-proof rice variety;